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SENATOR WILLHOFT: I, too, rise to oppose Senator Beutler's amendment. I know that Senator Beutler is trying to make this as good as he possibly can, but as the situation I mentioned before, Sandy Creek sits down there; the Meat Animal Research Center separates them. If Clay Center does not choose to unify, merge, or do anything, it cuts Harvard off, it cuts Giltner off, it cuts about anybody else off going with them that is not already merged. Sandy Creek did this in 1975 or '76, the way we said. I don't want to put any more roadblocks in their way. I think \$460,000 is a big enough roadblock. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Willhoft. Further discussion of the Beutler amendment? Seeing none, Senator Beutler, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, the amendment, I think, is a very good one. I don't know that there is any situation, one way or another, that can address everything, every situation that may come up such as the situation in...the one situation in Senator Dierks' office...Senator Dierks' district, or perhaps the situation in Senator Willhoft's district. All I can say to you is that over time in the Education Committee, looking at what's happened with the freeholder provisions, I think everybody on the Education Committee is agreed that there are far more problems that develop when you allow noncontiguous districts to engage each other in one way or another organizationally than are helped by leaving it wide open. In other words, on the average, far and away the most efficient...and not only the most efficient, but the wisest way is with contiguous districts. And so, all I'm seeking to do is not to recreate the problems that we've had with the freeholder provisions, and we have changed those now. And if we don't do this at the beginning now, I'm sure that at some point in time we will change it also. So perhaps it's wise to gain from the...to learn from the experience that we've had and start out with the right kind of formations in the first instance. So I would recommend this amendment to you which indicates that all unified districts would be contiguous. Thank you.